

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for undertaking a discussion with the undersigned relating to the final rejection of the claims in the application. As explained during that conversation, Applicant's claimed invention is directed to a much different liquid crystal structure than that which is disclosed in the *Lagerwall* reference, United States patent number 6,184,967. In accordance with Applicant's claimed invention, sealing material for the liquid crystal device is provided around a periphery between two panels. Additionally, the seal material is provided between the region of the perimeter and the effective picture area. This structure is much different than that which is disclosed in the cited reference. In particular, the cited reference is directed to the prior art described in the specification concerning a display wherein on-chip spacers are located both within and outside of an effective picture element area.

As noted in Applicant's disclosure on page 2, beginning on line 20, it is difficult to form the on-chip spacers in regions outside of the effective picture element area. Accordingly, the on-chip spacers are not formed typically outside of the effective picture element area. The reference cited by the Examiner describes a structure wherein the special peripheral spacers 12 are arranged in peripheral portions of the display and are made by the same technique as the central spacers 11 located within the effective picture area. This is described in the specification of the prior art reference in column 10, beginning on line 30. By this amendment Applicant has modified the claims to specifically state that the seal material referenced in the independent claims located at the peripheral portions and portions outside of and effective picture element area are substantially comprised of a same seal material. This further distinguishes from the device disclosed in a cited reference because the seal material around the perimeter of the cited reference is different then the structures of the spacers 11 and 12. Furthermore, Applicant notes that there is no teaching or suggestion regarding the specified

seal structure as described and claimed by Applicant in the present application. Applicant's seal structure is far different than that disclosed in the cited reference. The cited reference actually teaches away by instructing those skilled in the art to make the spacers outside of the effective picture element area to be the same structures as the spacers located within the effective picture element area as noted. This is in significant contrast to Applicant's claimed invention wherein the perimeter seal material is substantially the same as the seal material located between the effective picture area and the perimeter. In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the modified claims are patentably distinct over the art of record and all claims now stand in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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